

WYE RIVER SEPARATION CREEK PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017

**Produced & distributed by the Wye River and Separation Creek
Progress**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the Progress Association's Spring 2017 Newsletter. It brings you news about the PA and our many community groups, info about upcoming events and opportunities to get involved. As ever, there's plenty going on!

The Progress Association provides a strong voice for the community, as we have done for more than 40 years. Our committee meets regularly and we advocate for our community at all levels of government – local, state and federal – and they listen to us! This is because of our strong membership base and our commitment to engage constructively on issues of concern to our community.

So please join us or renew your membership! We need you! It's really easy - just visit our website <http://wyesep.org.au/join/> and pay the magnificent sum of \$10 per person or \$15 per family! You will receive our regular newsletters and updates. You can also raise issues of concern with us at any time, good or bad, big or small – just drop us a line at wye.seppa@gmail.com.

The committee has been busy. Over the past few months we have lobbied the state government to purchase the private land surrounding our townships and add it to the national park. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful and the land has been sold to a private buyer. We will be watching really carefully to see what happens next with this significant parcel of land.

We have raised many issues with Colac Otway Shire including traffic management during the rebuilding process, input to the drainage scheme and questions about its future maintenance and a submission on their rates review, asking them to maintain the differential for our towns. We have also had numerous discussions with VicRoads and DELWP about the landslip repair below Iluka Avenue and the reopening and future management of Paddy's Path. The extensive replanting being undertaken by VicRoads is due to the efforts of our community and we are crossing our fingers that the path will be re-opened for Christmas.

Many of our committee members are also involved in other local groups and we work with many of them. Toni Lawson is now the PA's representative and secretary of the WyeSepKennett Renewal Association Inc (WSKRA) (formerly Community Resilience Committee) and we are working with WSKRA on the implementation of the Renewal Plan. It is so exciting to see new building starting every month and the re-generation of the burnt areas. Good luck with all of your projects!

Our **Annual General Meeting and Community Forum** will be held on **Sunday 21 January 2018 at 10 am at the Surf Club**. Please come – it's a great opportunity to find out what is going on in the community and raise issues and ideas. We will also be electing a new committee and office bearers, so please consider nominating using **the form at the end of this newsletter**.

Our current committee members are:

Juliet Le Feuvre (President)	Harry Lewis
Ian Angus (Vice President)	Erina Officer
Matthew Jackman (Secretary)	Dennis O'Brien
John Harris (Treasurer)	Mark Stokes
Greg Hocking	Joanne Tyler
Toni Lawson	Pauline Wilson

We're always ready for a chat, so please give us a yell if you see any of us in town or get in touch via our email wye.seppa@gmail.com

We wish you all the very best for a safe and happy summer season, and hope to see you around town and on the beach.

Juliet Le Feuvre, President

WYE RIVER CFA REPORT PRE-SUMMER 2017

It has been another long, cold, wet winter, but that doesn't mean quiet time for the brigade. We have had nearly 30 call outs for the year and Tuesday night training sessions has seen 6 new members gain their qualifications as fire fighters and one other only has to complete practical assessment to be able to turn out also. We have also had one member further his qualifications with "suppress wild fire" and he is currently being mentored to become a crew leader. A great result in trying conditions, due to the station extension and renovations.

Speaking of the extension, what a magnificent effort by Allan Turner to have the building going to schedule in such adverse weather conditions. It will be completed by early December and what a difference that will make to our brigade, to be able to train in warmth through the winter months in our new meeting room. As I have said before, this would not be possible without the amazing fetes the auxiliary run over summer and Easter, which will provide almost half the total cost for the project. Christine Shaw has carried on the magnificent efforts of previous presidents, in coordinating the members and volunteers and making the fetes run seemingly effortlessly.

The buy a brick fundraiser has been a huge success and continues to run, so there is still time for those wishing to contribute.

Another successful fundraiser has been the Christmas Fire book written by two of our local children, Pema and Juna Hack. These are still available at the Wye Store, with all proceeds going to the brigade; great for the Christmas stocking.

Less than two years on from the fire, we have noticed some old bad habits creeping back in. Property owners clearing their property and dumping all the branches and bark into gullies is very poor practice and the Shire has been instructed to be on the lookout for this and stop it before it develops into a massive problem, with huge build ups of fuel and the added problem of weed infestation. For those unable to burn or remove the debris from their blocks, try and take advantage of the **weekly** collections of the green bin from 23rd October to 1st December.

Each year I encourage everyone to have and update their fire plan. Have it written down, with easily followed steps and make sure all of the family understands it, as well as visitors. If your house is a rental, have some basic instructions for the tenants and also a fire box which is suitable for the number of occupants.

On Saturday November 4th at 10.00 am, there will be a fire workshop, to be held at the SLSC. It will be similar to what was run in 2015, with fire scenarios modelling some outcomes of the Christmas Day fire and how to understand fire ratings. It will also include some do's and don'ts on what to do around your property. This proved very successful when we last ran it and is relevant to Kennett River and Grey River also.

This year we are reworking the old "Evacuation Plan," to have displayed in homes, so that there are some basic instructions on what to do and where to gain information. We will also be including the minimum contents that a fire box should contain. Look out for this flyer at the New Year's fete or hopefully it will be ready in time for the Melbourne Cup weekend.

I look forward to seeing you all over the summer.

Roy Moriarty, Captain

WYE CFA AUXILIARY UPDATE

Huge congratulations to all of the dedicated Wye River CFA Auxiliary members and volunteers; through all of your hard work and dedication at the Summer and Easter Fetes, we have raised the much needed funds that contributed to our CFA extensions. These efforts have ensured that Wye River and surrounds are safer places to live and visit.

Its exciting times ahead for the Wye CFA Auxiliary, with the extension almost ready. It will enable us more room to make this year's Summer Fete bigger and better. If you are interested in helping out at the Summer Fete we are always on the look-out for new volunteers, young, old, male or female; we don't discriminate. You will be welcomed by incredibly friendly, funny, caring people who live, camp, holiday and work in Wye, Sep and Kennet.

Some dates to put in your calendar:

- Fete Planning Meeting 10am on **Sunday 5th November 2017**, at the CFA (new members welcome: bring your friends, family, enthusiasm and any ideas)
- **Summer Fete Wednesday 3rd January 2018**

Any fete donations that need to be stored in the container can be made by contacting either;

Sue on 0408 930 245

Bronwyn on 0409 813 255, or

Christine 0431 877 370.

Please note that we **cannot store** large items, such as furniture, but you can drop these off on the set up day, the day before the fete. This is due to having limited space in our storage container.

We do accept books, clothes in good condition, new or designer, bric a brac, toys, jewels, handicrafts and we love those that bake or make jams, chutney etc as many people do come from far and wide. On behalf of the CFA Auxiliary we wish you and your family a happy and safe Summer.

Christine Shaw, President of Wye River CFA Auxiliary

WYE SEP KENNETT RENEWAL ASSOCIATION

1. From CRC to WSKRA

In September, the Community Resilience Committee became an incorporated association - the Wye Sep Kennett Renewal Association Inc. (WSKRA). Its purpose and functions are unchanged – to champion and guide a community led and community based approach to the renewal of our community after the 2015 fire and the following landslips. The terms of reference for WSKRA can be found on WyeSep Connect.

As before, the committee comprises community representatives – Diane Sisely, Joanne Tyler, Deborah Hocking, Ian Angus, Paul Greene, Roy Moriarty and Mark Stokes - and representatives of the major community associations, namely Wye River Surf Life Saving Club (Deborah Hocking), Wye River CFA (Andrew Hack), Wye River and Separation Creek Progress Association (Toni Lawson) and Kennett River Association (Geoff Quinn).

The WSKRA office bearers are – President Diane Sisely, Vice President Joanne Tyler, Secretary Toni Lawson, Treasurer Paul Greene. The four Work Groups – Community Connections and Wellbeing, Flora, Fauna and Beachscape, Planning, Building and Fire and Business and Tourism continue with their work, as sub-committees of WSKRA.

We encourage and welcome all members of the Wye, Sep and Kennett community to stay involved with the work of WSKRA.

The first AGM for WSKRA will be held in February next year. While membership of the WSKRA committee is for 12 months, at this first AGM four community members will step down from the committee and thereby provide an opportunity for other members of WSKRA to express their interest in joining the committee.

If you are interested in joining the committee, or voting at the AGM, you will need to complete a membership application form stating you support the principles and purposes of the association. The membership form is available [on WyeSep Connect](#) or by emailing wskrasn@gmail.com

2. Advocacy Undertaken

In April 2017, the CRC made a [detailed submission](#) to an Inquiry conducted by Emergency Services Victoria on its proposed model for *Resilient Recovery* and provided detailed comments on the *Review of the Wye River and Separation Creek Fire Recovery*.

In May, the CRC made a presentation in Wye River to the Colac Otway Shire (COS) Mayor and some of the Councillors and took them on a guided tour of the community, so that they might see first-hand, some of the issues facing people in our community.

In June, the CRC made a submission to the COS Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 and in October made a presentation in Wye River to the A/CEO and senior managers of COS on issues facing the community.

Community meeting forums were held in Wye River and Melbourne in March and September.

The CRC was invited to make a detailed submission directly to Parks Victoria about how \$3.4m, allocated by the State Government for revegetation following the fire, could be used for maximum benefit. Our six page response is based on the Renewal Plan and Statement of Values agreed to by the community. It's themes are revegetation and weed removal, Wye to Sep beach walk/board walk, extension of the Great Ocean Walk, walking tracks at Wye/Sep/Kennett, toilets and history. Read it [in our section on WyeSep Connect](#).

Replanting support is available for property owners. A process to access 40 plants per property is in place; 35 initial expressions of interest have been received to date: 5 from damaged properties, 7 from rebuilt, 23 from properties lost and hoping to rebuild 2018 – 2020, and plants are being distributed. This replanting support will run over three years.

3. Connecting People

A much appreciated community lunch was held in July at the surf club.

A very well attended Building Forum for property owners and trades people was held in Geelong in October. Experts with planning, geotechnical, waste water, building design, building, plumbing, planting and fire awareness expertise provided information and one on one advice to community members.

4. Updating the Renewal Plan

Work has commenced to update the Renewal Plan for Wye River and Separation Creek. The updated plan will also include issues facing people in Kennett River and initiatives to address them.

The draft updated Renewal Plan for Wye River, Separation Creek and Kennett River March 2018-2019 will be distributed for community consideration in mid December, with discussion occurring at the January Community Forum organised by the Wye River and Separation Creek Progress Association. The plan will then be finalized by mid March 2018.

Diane Sisely, President, WSKRA Joanne Tyler, Vice President, WSKRA

WYE RIVER SURF LIFE-SAVING CLUB

President's Report

The Wye River SLSC turns 60! My first year as President of this terrific institution coincides with the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of our clubs commencement. There will be an event of course where all club members, past members as well as the members of the Wye / Sep community will be all made welcome to join us on **Saturday 17th of February**. Our club has remained proud protectors of everyone who chooses to swim at our beautiful beach and I am continually amazed by the level of commitment towards, training, education, patrol and care of one another, displayed by our Active Membership, past and present. This is a unique surf club based in an incredibly beautiful environment and we look forward to celebrating it with you all.

No doubt that tales both tall and true will be shared on the day, as will club memorabilia (old photos, old uniforms, etc.). If you have any items that you believe might make the day a little more interesting, we would love to share them with all in attendance and of course return them to you for safe keeping. Contact myself or a committee member to assist.

It would appear that somewhere amid 2017 we have entered a period of new normality at the club. Recovery is continuing to occur around us of course but not necessarily directly impacting on our usual operations. The club committee is rapt that the Wye River and surrounding communities increasingly utilize our facilities as part of the bush fire recovery process but also as a normal matter of course. As a club, we are so lucky to have these facilities and we feel privileged to be able to share them.

New members – all families, individuals and children are all welcome as are associates members (not on active patrol but simply want to be involved at the club). Please visit our website or speak directly to a committee member for guidance.

Please mark your calendars and stay tuned to Facebook for important events in the 17/18 season:

Surf Club Working Bee – 11th of November – All members welcome – b/w 9am and 1pm followed by **BBQ**.

Patrol Season Commences – 2nd December

Requalification – 27th of December

Nippers – 27th of December to 7th of January

Summer Bronze Medallion – 2nd of January to 7th of January

Summer Fling – 28th of December – Family Friendly Event open to the entire summer community – Band, BBQ, face painting, etc.

Wye Peak Challenge – 3rd March - A new event for the town and 21km bush challenge for the brave – info to follow.

Patrol Season Concludes – 15th April

We look forward to a fun and safe season on the beach with you all, between the flags.

Marty McIntosh - President (WRSLS)

OTWAY COAST TOURISM

Our group continues meeting and networking for holiday rentals and tourism businesses located from Wye to Wongarra.

We have just finished a tourism “Destination Action Plan” that identifies priorities for the future, and fits neatly within the regional tourism plans along the Great Ocean Road, in a process lead by Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism (GORRT). Ours is one of 18 plans facilitated by GORRT along the Great Ocean Road, and includes a professional branding plan.

We have \$40,000 from government from the process to invest in local tourism improvements.

Our priorities are for :

- improved local walks and signage, so that visitors and landowners and families can enjoy great local walks
- an historical interpretation walk
- Improved Kennett visitor arrangements
- lobbying for improved infrastructure such as toilets
- integration of our historically strong web presence with the regional websites

Our area is called ‘Otway Coast Hamlets’ in the tourism clusters, so it includes our little towns of Sep, Wye, Kennett and Wongarra.

We have also given strong feedback to Parks Victoria, as part of their \$4m recovery funding.

If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please contact

Rex Brown, Chair 0408 006 992, or Bryan James, Secretary 0417 377 138.

ESTUARY WATCH

Celebrating 10 years since inception, EstuaryWatch is a community based estuarine monitoring programme to raise awareness and provide educational opportunities to communities in estuarine environments.

Established in October 2012, the Wye River EstuaryWatch group has just completed five years’ monitoring of our estuary, twice a month. During all that time, the only monitoring day we have missed was Sunday 3rd January 2016 – and we all know the reason for that!

To ensure the accuracy of our findings, we regularly participate in quality assurance sessions with our co-ordinator Rose Jackson. Our data can be viewed at www.estuarywatch.org.au.

Since our last report in the April newsletter, the river’s course across the beach has varied considerably coinciding with the tidal shifting of sand from the beach to up-river and back again. In the last few weeks, there was so much accumulated sand, that our depth gauge gave us sand-depth instead of water! The river was very narrow under the bridge and we were speculating on what to call the new riverside beach created beside the playground.

However, as expected, the playground ‘beach’ has narrowed, the river has widened to once again accommodate our depth-gauge and has resumed its usual snaking course across the sand out to sea.

Our monitoring and photographing usually only takes about 30 minutes, so if you are interested in joining our group, or would just like to see what we do, you are very welcome to join us at 10 am at the foreshore on the first and third Sundays of each month.

Yvonne Sheppard, Phone: 0407 883 116

WYE COMMUNITY GARDEN

The philosophy behind the garden is sharing, helping, learning, community, play, environment, organic fresh food, creativity and making friends.

We meet every Wednesday at the civilised time of 11.00a.m, and all are welcome.

Donations are certainly most welcome, tools, old wheelbarrows, unwanted but nice pots, bird baths, organic manure, fertiliser and sugar gum mulch.

There is only one rule, which is there are no rules except NO politics!

And as a reminder, please don't throw out your kitchen waste. We have 2 worm farms eager for any vege scrapings, and 2 compost bins for bulk waste. Recycle is our motto.

The benefits

Community building tool

Reduces stress and improves health of community members

Provides a space for artistic and creative expressions

Produces fresh, organic and nutritious food

Provides a space for spiritual connections with the earth

Beautifies and enriches the local environment

Creates a garden where Fairies will come, if you believe!

Creates opportunity for recreation, exercise and learning

Allows chat between those of all ages and cultures

Gardening relaxes the mind and energises the body

Gardening collectively, sharing and exchanging helps reduce social isolation and loneliness

Sharing produce, ideas, experience and recipes etc

You receive a dose of my romance poems!

And most of all ITS FUN!

Peter and Sue Latham, Convenors

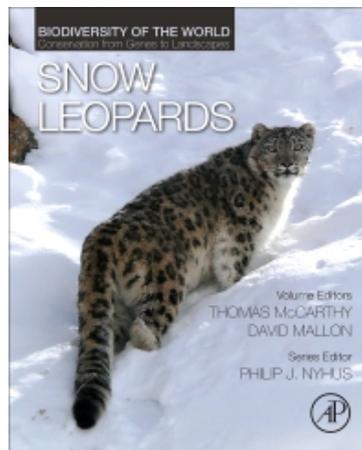
LOCAL NEWS

Koala Welfare

A Wye River Koala was recently euthanized due to a dog attack. Additionally, every year we lose dogs to snakes. Please ensure that any dogs on your property are not able to wander.

Separation Creek resident, Sibylle Noras, is a Steering Committee member of the international *Snow Leopard Network* and is the Founder Publisher of the *Saving Snow Leopards Report*.

She is also a co-author and contributor to *Snow Leopards – Biodiversity of the World*, the first ever book on this species which was recently chosen as the winner of the Wildlife Society's Book of the Year for 2017.



Sibylle has long supported the conservation and protection of these quite beautiful – but endangered - big cats which are uniquely adapted to endure the extreme cold of the high altitudes of central Asia which is their natural habitat. One of her most enduring memories is a challenging visit to the frozen snows of the Himalayas which was rewarded with a sighting of one of these solitary, enigmatic and elusive animals.

The Progress Association prints material from contributors, uncut. The views expressed are theirs and may (rarely) not coincide with those of the Association.

PROGRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

(FOR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS)

To ensure continuation of the work of the Progress Association, and the printing of this Newsletter, if you haven't already done so, **PLEASE (RE) SUBSCRIBE FOR 2017 - 2018.**

Annual membership is \$10 per person or \$15 per family. An easy option, recently introduced, is that you may also renew your membership for 3 years. Please complete the form below and send it, together with your subscription to:

The Treasurer, WRSCPA, C/- Post Office, Wye River Vic 3221.

You may also pay by direct transfer to our bank account: WESTPAC, Colac branch: BSB 033-637, Account Number 99-0081, Account Name: WRSCPA.

Following lodgement of payment, please e-mail wye.seppa@gmail.com advising who you have paid for, the amount paid, and giving the information requested below. This is important because we must, by law, keep a record of current members. Receipts will be issued on request.

Please indicate whether **Individual** or **Family** membership; **renewing?** (tick)

Name/s: (Please print)

Addresses: (Wye/Sep & other, if applicable)

Phone No: (Wye/Sep & other, if applicable)

Email: